



## **Comprehensive Plan Public Workshop**

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

### **Small Group Visioning Exercise – Combined Workshop Notes**

#### **I. Discuss the strengths of the community.**

##### **1. List top 3-5 strengths**

- *Location along 95 and/or 58 highway systems (8)*
- *Airport (4)*
- *Railroad (4)*
- *Fire Department/Rescue Squad (4)*
- *Police Department (3)*
- *Strong presence of Dominion Energy (3)*
- *Hospital (2)*
- *Strong agricultural presence and water access (2)*
- *Available marketable land (2)*
- *Family Oriented (2)*
- *Moderate weather (2)*
- *Great transportation*
- *1,500-acre Industrial Park*
- *Good regional efforts*
- *Nearby recreation facilities and Lake Gaston*
- *Community College System*
- *Large faith-based community*
- *Workforce Development Center*
- *YMCA/EGRA*
- *Presence of Georgia-Pacific*

##### **2. Cite any additional comments about strengths**

- *“Access to board of supervisors, meetings, and school board”*
- *“Greensville County is located in the “Garden Spot of the World.” The weather here is great no matter what season. We are home to the “Peanut “Festival”, “Pork Festival” and one of the best recreational softball and baseball teams in Southside Virginia. Our residents display the true meaning of rural and southern living.”*
- *Forestland, land development for growth, river access (fishing; close proximity to Lakes)*



## **2. Discuss the top challenges facing the community.**

### **I. List top 3-5 challenges**

- *Schools/education system (9)*
- *Lack of local retail and shopping (5)*
- *Lack of recreation and entertainment attractions (4)*
- *Lack of jobs (2)*
- *County limiting land use (2)*
- *Marketing for county resources and economic development (2)*
- *Unskilled and uneducated workforce (3)*
- *Lack of youth involvement (2)*
- *Loss of small businesses*
- *Loss of young people*
- *Knowledge of new funding opportunities*
- *Attracting new industries*
- *Adequate housing opportunities*
- *Crime rate for a rural area*
- *Being open to renewable energy*
- *Supervisors that are not business minded*
- *Lack of entrepreneurial development*
- *Broadband*
- *Technology*

### **2. Cite any additional comments about challenges**

- *“Agriculture is not our only resource.”*
- *“Representatives that have limited vision and personal agendas.”*
- *“An attitude of oneness working towards the same goals.”*
- *“What funding is available to promote growth in our County?...Funding is available but the criteria is often unattainable”*
- *“Even though our county has strong family values, we lack access to good quality broadband services. We have little to no access to any entertainment amenities other than youth league sports. We have nothing for youth or families that are not interested in sports. Also, technology for the county is so out of date. It needs to be updated, and our schools are in terrible condition.”*
- *“Seek and improve more recreational opportunities”*



**3. What are the top goals or improvements that the County should focus on in the next 10-20 years?**

**I. List top 3-5 goals/improvements**

- *Improving schools (9)*
- *Develop additional water supply*
- *Inviting new industries and businesses (5)*
- *Business minded leadership*
- *More recreation and entertainment (3)*
- *Improve affordable housing stock*
- *Support of renewable energy solar (2)*
- *Embrace small business ownership*
- *Good jobs*
- *Improve secondary roads*
- *Economic development*
- *Support home ownership*
- *High tech skills development*
- *Identify the true needs of the community*
- *Build and develop athletic facilities*
- *Broadband*

**2. Cite any additional comments about goals**

- *“Supervisors must work together and leave personal agendas at home.”*
- *“Embrace small business ownership.”*
- *“Allow more industries to build and grow here. Use tax money from ore industries for the support of more leisure companies”*
- *“In order for our county to be more productive, we are going to have to do major capitol improvements to our schools, update and keep technology updated, and engage our youth and empower them to be more productive citizens now and in the future. Also make current programs more accessible. We have programs here that people don’t know we have.”*



**4. Using the characteristics and goals from the questions above, draft a Vision Statement.**

- *“We will be a forward-thinking community centrally located, creating a central hub, attracting industry and business, while sustaining our economy. We should strive to enhance all of our marketable resources.”*
- *“We will educate our community, enhance economic development and create more positive opportunities for all citizens.”*
- *“Greensville County will strive to develop strategically by growing economic opportunities and job creation, sustaining the quality of life and providing high-quality educational facilities to all residents, young and old.”*
- *“Greensville County is a rural community with access to 95 and 58. We are receptive to new industry and technology as well as renewable energy. We will do whatever necessary to move into the future.”*
- *“As a constantly changing community with strong family values, Greensville County will support growth, sustain our unique community offerings, and strive to become a closer bound community while achieving economic growth and educational excellence for our own citizens.”*
- *As a conservation minded community with valuable natural resources and recreational opportunities, Greensville will support growth that fits our rural character, sustain our thriving agricultural economy, and strive to become a destination for new residents and green businesses, while achieving a better quality of life for all of the citizens in our diverse community.*
- *Other ideas: industries, opportunities, realistic goals, enhanced commercialism/property/land use; resort/spa; thriving; open minded*